

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LAFAYETTE PARKING COMMISSION
July 16, 2007
11:00 am**

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS: Cindy Murray, Don Teder, Bob Carpenter, Ed Chosnek,
City Attorney

STAFF: Dennis Carson, Tom Van Horn, Jennifer Criblez, Nancy Hendricks

GUESTS Wiley Sanders, WESAN Trust
 Shane Pettiner, Jon's Body Shop
 Jason Houston, Denison Parking
 Jon Hicks, Jon's Body Shop
 Chris Weaver, Lafayette Police Department
 Karen Miller
 Jim Morrow, Lafayette Fire Department
 Cheryl Norris, Beyond the Limits
 Phil Kretzmeier, A&K Construction Inc.
 Mike Shideler, All State Fastener
 Carl Liston, Double Deuce Saloon
 Matthew DePalma, ASF

President Cindy Murray opened the meeting of the Lafayette Parking Commission.

Approval of Minutes

Don Teder moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2007 special meeting of the Lafayette Parking Commission. Bob Carpenter seconded. The motion passed.

Request for changes to the on-street parking on North 14th Street

Cheryl Norris, part owner of the Beyond the Limits motorcycle shop, distributed a packet to the Parking Commission that identified the area at 1315 N. 14th Street and included the surrounding businesses, as well a church and an apartment building. Currently there is limited parking for each of the three businesses in the east side of 14th Street and each business has two parking spaces located in front of their businesses. The saloon also has a parking lot behind their business. Immortal Ink which is located on the corner of Howell and 14th has parking on both streets plus parking in residential areas and in the lot across the street from Howell. The church does not use up parking except on Sundays and after 5:00 pm on week days. Denison Parking enforcement of the one hour limit has helped her customers to find parking. However, family members (of other businesses) and residents (in the area) park in the spaces in front of Beyond the Limits and restrict use by their regular customers. The enforcement by Denison alleviated the parking problem but stirred the ire of the other business owners. Cheryl Norris suggested continued enforcement and a change in the parking limit to thirty minutes.

Jason Houston of Denison Parking reported that he began enforcement in the area on June 12th and issued four tickets on that day. Since that time, he has only issued one ticket in the last month.

Cindy Murray asked if Denison Parking could continue to enforce parking on N. 14th Street.

Jason Houston answered yes, but that at every hour of the working day enforcement was a considerable imposition of time.

Cheryl Norris said that she would be satisfied with periodic enforcement.

Wiley Sanders, trust for the two buildings south of Beyond the Limits property, suggested moving the placement of the sign limiting parking to the front of the alley and to change the one hour limit to two hours. He also suggested removing the 2 a.m. - 5 a.m. no parking restriction to allow parking availability to the residents of the area.

Carl Liston, owner of the Double Deuce Saloon, said that he didn't mind any changes to the area as long as those changes did not increase use of the parking lot behind the saloon.

Cheryl Norris responded that a two hour limit would severely impose on her customers and also suggested moving the sign to designate the two hour limit area away from her business and to designate a thirty minute area in front of her business.

Carl Liston agreed with Cheryl Norris' request.

Wiley Sanders agreed with the thirty minute limit in front of Beyond the Limits, as long as that limit was not in front of any of his buildings.

Ed Chosnek, City Attorney suggested the possibility of painting the curb as a loading zone in front of the motorcycle shop (Beyond the Limits). This would allow a thirty minute time limit and remain up to the owner of the business to enforce that limit. This would also eliminate the time and cost of enforcement by Denison Parking.

Cindy Murray asked about the time of day that the loading zone would be in effect.

Dennis Carson replied that the limit only remains in effect during business hours.

A short discussion followed.

Bob Carpenter moved to have the curb painted in front of Beyond the Limits to make the two available parking spaces into a loading zone. Don Teder seconded.

At the question, Wiley Sanders asked if the motion included a one hour limit for the rest of the block or if beyond the loading zone the limit would be a two hour zone.

After discussion, Bob Carpenter amended the motion to include changing the one hour limit to two hours. Don Teder seconded. The motion passed.

Request for changes to the parking on Morland Drive

Mike Shideler of All State Fasteners reported that the semi-truck trailers backing into their receiving dock block the narrow street and impede traffic to other businesses in the area. His request is that the parking spaces across the street be made into a no parking zone to allow traffic to get around the trucks that are unloading on his dock.

Jon Hicks of Jon's Body Shop reported that his business is adversely affected by the blocked road. He added that when the semi-trucks are unloading that they take up the entire road including the parking space referred to by Mr. Shideler's request. Emergency vehicles would not be able to respond to any crisis beyond All State Fasteners' dock. Mr. Hicks presented pictures of the situation to the Parking Commission.

Don Teder asked if the police were ever called to resolve the issue.

Jon Hicks replied that yes, the police are called but that it is not considered a high priority issue. The issues vary but when the police do arrive, they just tell the driver to unhook the trailer and no one gets a ticket.

Cindy Murray commented that she understood that blocking a street from traffic is a violation of city ordinance.

Chris Weaver of the Lafayette Police Department, Traffic Division, confirmed her understanding.

Ed Chosnek responded that at no time should a street be blocked.

Discussion continued on the number of ways that the street becomes blocked in a single day, the change in length of trailers, the recession of the docks, companies leasing buildings that are not suited to their business needs, and the unavailability of access from the other end of the street.

Phil Kretzmeier of A&K Construction Company added that this has been an ongoing issue for this street and that Morland Drive has more problems than just this one. The narrow street has presented many difficult maneuvering situations and the additional businesses using the area have increased. At this time, the drive is busier than it has ever been and the problems are compounding.

Ed Chosnek repeated that in spite of the complexity of the issue, existing law says that no one can block the street. Law enforcement should be called to reinforce the need for compliance to city ordinance. Additionally, the neighboring businesses need to assess the many problems and find viable solutions that do not impose violation of city code.

Bob Carpenter commented that this issue is beyond the scope of the Parking Commission. Any change to the parking would not make the street wider or provide any solution that would change the conditions to make area safer.

Continuing discussion did not provide any other possibility for resolution.

Bob Carpenter moved to deny the request for any change in parking. Don Teder seconded. The motion passed.

Cindy Murray added that with the police in the audience for this meeting, communication of the problem would be made to the responding officers. Also, since the issue contains several problems that require change in infrastructure, the Redevelopment staff can be in communication with the Engineering Department to look for more permanent solutions to the Morland Drive area.

Use of Parking Lot N

During the “Dancing in the Streets” festival the Renaissance Place residents will not have a place to park or access to leave, so Dennis Carson proposed allowing use of Parking Lot N for those residents.

Bob Carpenter moved to allow parking to the residents of Renaissance Place. Don Teder seconded. The motion passed.

Public Comment and Adjournment

Cindy Murray asked for additional comments from the public. Hearing no further comments, Bob Carpenter moved to adjourn. Don Teder seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hendricks
Recording Secretary

Bob Carpenter, Parking Commission Secretary